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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 8, 2005

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CITY THROWN FOR A LOSS, ORDERED TO PAY \$1.5 MILLION TO THE SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

San Diego, CA: Today an arbitrator ruled that the City must pay the San Diego Chargers approximately \$1.5 million for the loss of game seats. The seats were lost when the City was required to install wheelchair, aisle transfer and ambulatory seats, to bring the stadium into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In the future, the City will be financially responsible to pay for the loss of games seats, only if attendance is 90% or greater. Rent credits could approach as much as \$500,000 or more, on a yearly basis.

“This dispute is a result of another Susan Golding give-away,” said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. “Former Mayor Golding agreed to indemnify the Chargers for the loss of seats, while other users of the stadium waived their rights to indemnification.”

This was a binding arbitration case between the City of San Diego and the San Diego Chargers. The problem stems from the 1997 stadium expansion. The City and the Chargers failed to comply with the ADA. Specifically, the improvements did not include enough seats for the disabled.

In 1997, a lawsuit was filed against the City over non-compliance with state and federal ADA laws by private citizen Beverly Walker. The Chargers were later added as defendants. In 2000, the City Council agreed to indemnify the Chargers for any loss revenue, stemming from the Walker settlement. This was one of the conditions the Chargers demanded before signing the Walker settlement agreement.

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